

November 18, 2014

**VIA ECFS**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20054

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation, IB Docket No. 13-213, RM-11685, WT Docket No. 03-66

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is filed on behalf of the ABC Television Network (“ABC”) and CBS Television Stations (“CBS”) in support of the *ex parte* comments of the Engineers for the Integrity of Broadcast Auxiliary Services Spectrum (“EIBASS”)<sup>1</sup> in the above-referenced proceeding in which the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) seeks comment, *inter alia*, on the impact the proposed deployment by Globalstar, Inc. of a terrestrial low-power broadband network on broadcast auxiliary service (“BAS”) operations in the 2450-2500 MHz band.<sup>2</sup>

As an initial matter, ABC and CBS wish to emphasize the critical role that BAS spectrum in the 2450-2500 MHz band, namely BAS Channels A8-A10 (“BAS Channels”), plays in the coverage of sports events and other events of public importance, *e.g.*, breaking news, coverage of emergency situations, etc. For example, ABC and CBS rely on the BAS Channels on a weekly basis to provide aerial downlinks from blimps and/or helicopters in connection with their coverage of major sporting events, such as ABC’s coverage of college football, NBA games, the Indianapolis 500, the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl. Similarly, ABC and CBS utilize the BAS

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<sup>1</sup> See *Ex Parte* Comments of the Engineers for the Integrity of Broadcast Auxiliary Services Spectrum, IB Docket No. 13-213, RM-11685, WT Docket No. 03-66 (filed Jul. 18, 2014) (“EIBASS *Ex Parte* Comments”).

<sup>2</sup> See In the Matter of Terrestrial Use of the 2473-2495 MHz Band for Low-Power Mobile Broadband Networks; Amendments to Rules for the Ancillary Terrestrial Component of Mobile Satellite Service Systems, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 13-147, IB Docket No. 13-213, RM-11685, WT Docket No. 03-66 (Nov. 1, 2013).

Channels to cover large-scale news events such as political conventions and presidential inaugurations.

It has been the experience of ABC and CBS, however, that spectrum available for interference-free licensed Part 74 BAS communications is becoming increasingly congested. As the Commission is aware, it is often challenging to ensure that licensed wireless operations will not suffer interference from unlicensed services using the same spectrum (*e.g.*, WiFi services that raise the noise floor to excessive levels). Nevertheless, ABC and CBS have been able to minimize some of the potential for interference by using the BAS Channels, but only after engaging in exhaustive and resource-consuming frequency coordination efforts to secure the use of all three of the BAS Channels. It is critical that the Commission not take action in this proceeding that will further exacerbate the ability of broadcasters like ABC and CBS to engage in interference-free communications using the BAS Channels to cover important, and potentially life-saving, events.

To this end, ABC and CBS support the recommendation of EIBASS that, where there are co-primary operations, a newcomer must demonstrate that it will protect incumbent operations, including both TV pickup services and fixed-link operations.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the Commission must require any mobile satellite service provider that proposes to provide ancillary terrestrial component services using AWS-5 spectrum to use stringent emission masks in order to eliminate the potential increase in interference to adjacent channel BAS operations, which interference would further handicap broadcasters' ability to use the BAS Channels. Any increase in interference to operation of BAS Channels harms the public interest given the overcrowded spectrum environment in which broadcasters currently find themselves operating to cover sporting events, breaking news, and other events of public importance.

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<sup>3</sup> See EIBASS *Ex Parte* Comments, at para. 4.

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This letter is filed pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules and should be treated as a written *ex parte* communication.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gary Nadler

Gary Nadler

General Manager, Digital and Wireless

**ABC Television Network**

/s/ Jeff Birch

Jeff Birch

Vice President, Engineering

**CBS Television Stations**